

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An image display device having functions for protecting an address driver, the device comprising:

a panel provided with address electrodes and data electrodes;

a scaler for converting an input image signal to fit into a resolution of the panel;

an address driver and a data driver for driving the address electrodes and the data electrodes, respectively, in response to an image signal from the scaler; and

a luminance control means for comparing line by line changes of the image signal outputted from the scaler, changing luminance of the image signal outputted from the scaler according to a result of the comparison, and changing a number of operations of the address driver.

2. The image display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the luminance control means includes:

a line delay unit for delaying the image signal outputted from the scaler by a predetermined period of time;

a line comparison part for comparing luminance of the pixels for the image signals outputted from the line delay unit and the scaler;

a counter for counting a number of luminance differences among the pixels compared in the comparator; and

a luminance control part for controlling the scaler in response to a result of the counting of the counter and changing the luminance of the image signal outputted from the scaler.

3. The image display device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the predetermined period of time is a time period of the image signal outputted line by line from the scaler.

4. The image display device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the luminance control part includes:

a luminance data storage for storing luminance data for decreasing the luminance level by level; and

a microcomputer for controlling the luminance data storage to output to the scaler corresponding luminance data out of luminance data stored in the luminance data storage in response to a counting value outputted from the counter.

5. The image display device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a pixel pattern detector for detecting an on and off pattern of data

of individual pixels constituting the image signal outputted to each line, and applying the detected pattern to the luminance control part in order for the luminance control part to change the luminance of the image signal outputted from the scaler.

6. A method for protecting an address driver in an image display device having a panel provided with address electrodes and data electrodes, a scaler for converting an input image signal to fit into a resolution of the panel, and an address driver and a data driver for driving the address electrodes and the data electrodes, respectively, in response to an image signal from the scaler, the method comprising steps of:

comparing line by line changes of an image signal outputted from the scaler;

changing luminance of the image signal outputted from the scaler according to a result of the comparison; and

changing a number of drives of the address driver based on the changed luminance.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the luminance change step includes steps of:

comparing the image signal outputted from the scaler line by line, and counting a number of luminance changes among pixels constituting the lines; and

changing the luminance of the image signal outputted from the scaler according to the number of luminance changes counted.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the counting step includes steps of:

delaying the image signal outputted from the scaler by a predetermined period of time;

comparing luminance among pixels for the image signal outputted from the scaler and the image signal delayed by the predetermined period of time; and

counting a number of occurrences of the luminance differences among the pixels.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the predetermined period of time is a time period of the image signal outputted line by line from the scaler.